

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11

MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-20

IGA-02 DOTE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 DRC-01 /163 W

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P 021555Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4743

INFO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

COMMILSEALIFTCOMD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5348

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, MASS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: MUNITIONS SEIZED BY GOG AND HANDLING OF FUTURE SUCH

CARGOS

REF: A. ATHENS 5121

B. ANKARA 6106

C. ATHENS 5063

USDOC PASS MARAD - OFFICE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

LONDON FOR MARITIME ATTACHE

1. FOLLOWING UP EARLIER APPROACHES, EMBASSY POL/MIL AND
COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CALLED ON GEORGIOS OF FONOFF AUGUST 2
TO POINT OUT, AS NOTED REF B, THAT MUCH OF MUNITIONS SHIPMENT
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DESTINED FOR GOT BUT RETAINED BY GOG PROPERTY OF USG.

EMBOFFS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT LASH ITALIA, SISTERSHIP OF LASH ESPANA, BEGINNING TO LOAD CARGO IN NEW YORK AUGUST 1 AND EMBASSY NEEDED TO HAVE DEFINITIVE ASSURANCE FROM GOG THAT MILITARY CARGO DESTINED FOR GOT WHICH MIGHT BE ABOARD WOULD NOT BE TAMPERED WITH WHEN SHIP STOPPED IN PIRAEUS.

2. EMBOFFS SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT IF ASSURANCE NOT GIVEN, THAT IT POSSIBLE LASH ITALIA WOULD GO FIRST TO ISTANBUL AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO PIRAEUS. EMBOFFS WONDERED WHETHER GOT WOULD ALLOW MILITARY CARGO DESTINED FOR GOG TO REMAIN ABOARD IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND SUGGESTED THAT BEST WAY TO AVOID PROBLEMS WAS TO RELEASE THREE BARGES OF MUNITIONS SEIZED FROM LASH ESPANA. EMBOFFS THOUGHT THAT IF GOG RELEASED MUNITIONS, LASH ITALIA MIGHT BE ABLE TO CARRY IT ONWARD TO ISTANBUL.

3. IN ANY EVENT, EMBOFFS LISTED ILLUSTRATIVELY KINDS OF MUNITIONS EARLIER SEIZED FROM LASH ESPANA CARGO WHICH CONTINUE TO BE PROPERTY OF USG UNTIL DELIVERED IN TURKEY. EMBOFFS STATED THAT EMBASSY LIKELY SOON TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION FOR MORE DIRECT APPROACH TO GOG RE RELEASE OF SEIZED MUNITIONS, AND VENTURED OPINION THAT GOG COULD AVOID DIFFICULTIES BY QUICK RELEASE OF THIS MATERIAL.

4. GEORGIU UNDERSTOOD ELEMENTS OF PROBLEM QUITE CLEARLY AND TELEPHONED LT. GEN. KIRIAKOPoulos, DCINCHELFOR, AND URGED THAT DECISION BE TAKEN TO RECTIFY SITUATION. GEORGIU UNDERTOOK TO INFORM EMBOFFS OF DECISION AS SOON AS HE INFORMED BY SHAFC. EMBOFFS AGAIN STRESSED THAT ASSURANCE RE LASH ITALIA AND ITS CARGO MATTER OF FIRST PRIORITY, BUT THAT WE ALSO VERY ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF SEIZED MUNITIONS.

5. GEORGIU SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED EMBOFF TO INFORM HIM THAT GOG GIAVE ITS UNQUALIFIED ASSURANCE THAT LASH ITALIA AND ITS CARGO WOULD NOT BE HAMPERED IN ANY WAY DURING ITS SCHEDULED CALL AT PIRAEUS. WHEN HUERIED ABOUT DECISION OF RETURN OF MUNITIONS, GEORGIU NOTED THAT SEIZED MUNITIONS HAD BEEN UNLOADED AND STORED WITH GREEK MUNITIONS WHICH ARRIVED ON SAME SHIP, PRESENTING CERTAIN PROBLEMS OF IDENTIFICATION. HE UNDERTOOK TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AND INFORM EMBOFFS SOONEST OF ITS POSSIBLE RELEASE.

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